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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SPECIAL.

Issued December 31, 1914.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

CONVENIENCES FOR HANDLING THE FARM COW AND HER PRODUCTS.

Prepared in the Dairy Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

An improvement in the conditions under which cows are kept on the average farm will greatly lessen the labor required in their care,

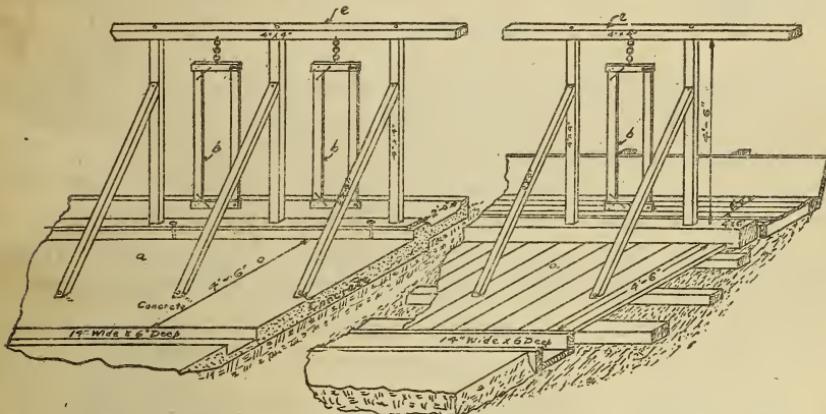


FIG. 1.—Arrangement of concrete and wooden stalls for cows.

make it more pleasant, and at the same time cause the cows to produce more milk.

COW STALL.

The cow must be kept in clean, comfortable quarters in order to produce the largest quantity of milk and butter. The essentials of such quarters are:

1. Plenty of light.
2. Plenty of fresh air, with no drafts.
3. Convenience.
4. A floor that can easily be kept clean.

NOTE.—Intended for farmers in the cotton belt who desire to diversify their farming because of the economic crisis which adversely affects the cotton crop at this time.

Figure 1 shows a diagram of a simple and convenient arrangement of cow stalls. The cow stands on the platform (*a*) with her head through the stanchion (*b*), which is used to tie her in the stall. The gutter is to catch the droppings and urine, keep them out of the way of the milker, and also to prevent the cow from becoming soiled when lying down.

The stanchion shown in figure 2 takes the place of a rope or halter. It is hung in the frame (*e*) with a few links of a chain at the top and bottom, which allow it to swing and be comfortable for the cow. The stanchion is fastened to the sill, which forms the back of the trough. One side of the stanchion opens on a pivot, closes in a slot, and is held fast by a wire loop or a pin placed in a hole bored through the top of the stanchion and piece that opens. The bottom of the feed trough is 2 inches higher than the platform upon which the cow stands. The floor of the feed trough and stall should rest flat on the ground. Concrete is preferable for the platform, gutter, and feed trough, but sound,

FIG. 2.—Detail of stanchion for holding cow.

smooth boards or plank can be used. A wooden floor must be kept in repair so that liquid will not leak through and puddle underneath and cause bad odors. A lean-to can be fitted up with this stall and made a very clean and convenient place to keep cows. Where barn room is scarce, the cows can be kept in these stalls at night.

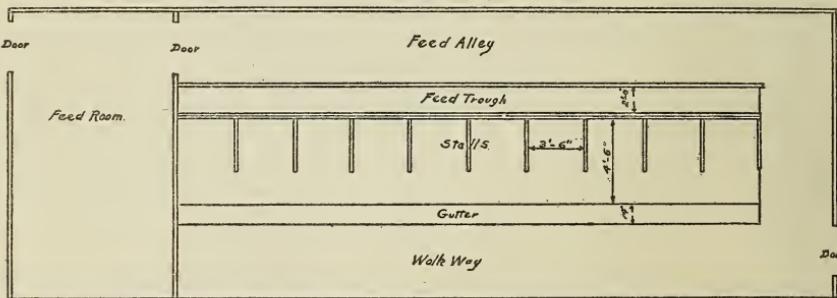


FIG. 3.—Plan for cow shed.

and in cold, bad weather with no discomfort to them. When this is done, plenty of bedding, such as straw, leaves, etc., should be put on the floor of the stall. Figure 3 shows a convenient arrangement for a shed or lean-to.

CALF STANCHION.

All calves when a few days old should be taught to drink milk, as this makes their handling less troublesome, and if a clean, warm stall equipped with stanchions for confining them while eating is provided, their feeding will be no more trouble than feeding pigs.

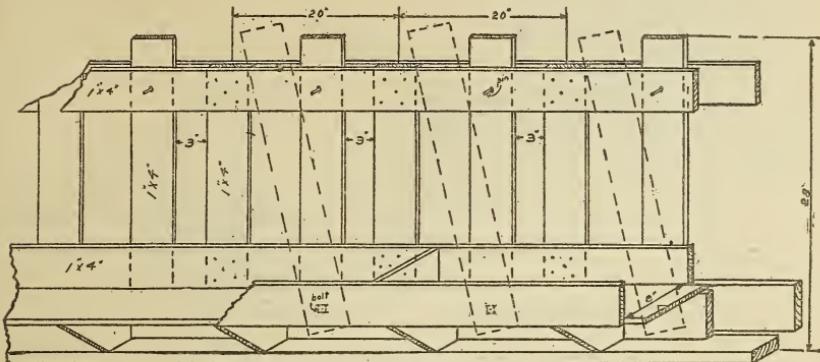


FIG. 4.—Stanchions for confining calves.

Figure 4 shows how these stanchions are made. A circular on the subject of feeding calves can be obtained by writing to the Dairy Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

MILK CANS.

Milk and cream from even a few cows can be much more conveniently handled in regular milk cans than in the shallow pans and wide-mouth buckets commonly used.

Figure 5 shows a convenient can for collecting the milk at the barn and transferring it to the house.

These cans may be bought in various sizes. For handling cream and skim milk where separators are

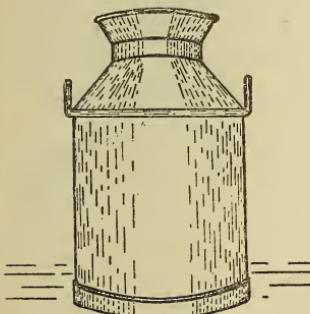


FIG. 5.—Milk can.

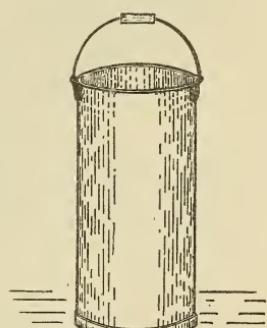


FIG. 6.—“Shotgun can.”

used, or even where cream is set to sour for butter making, the “shotgun can,” shown in figure 6, is very convenient. It can be easily covered and set in water and is convenient to handle.

MILK ROOM AND COOLING BOX.

Where even a few cows are kept, a separate room for handling the milk should be provided to relieve the oftentimes overcrowded kitchen. Well houses frequently have a room which, with the addition of a

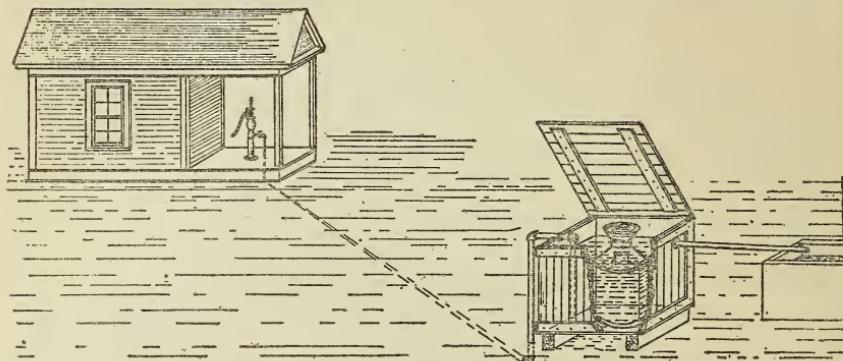


FIG. 7.—Arrangement for milk house and milk-cooling box.

concrete floor, shelves, and windows, makes a very convenient milk room.

A very great help in keeping milk and cream cool in summer can be had by placing a tightly covered box, protected from the sun, between

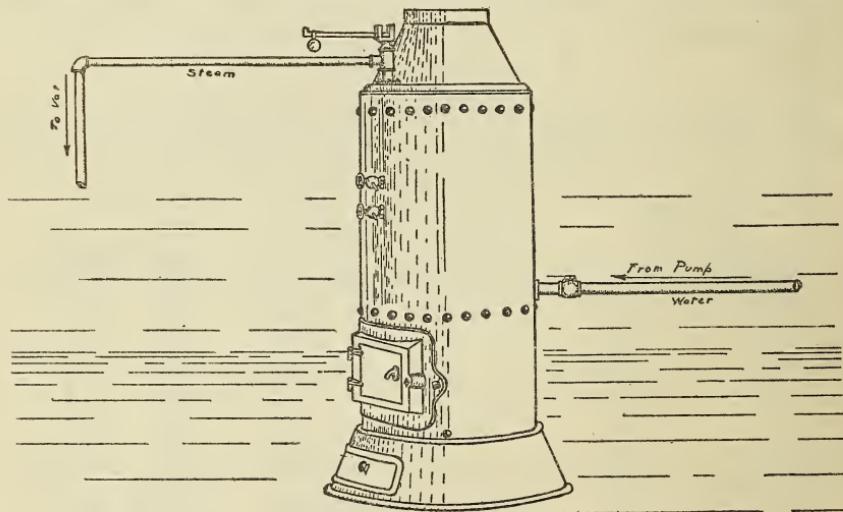


FIG. 8.—Low-pressure boiler.

the well and the horse-watering trough in such a way that each addition of water to the trough will pass through the box, and thus freshen the water. Figure 7 shows such an arrangement.

WATER HEATER.

One of the greatest conveniences on the farm where cows are kept is some means for heating an abundance of water for washing the milk vessels. Where a considerable number of cows are kept, heating water by means of steam from a small, low-pressure upright boiler, such as is shown in figure 8, is desirable, but on the small farm a stove with a basin fitted into the top (or it may be separate from the top) can be purchased cheaply and will serve the purpose, provided the water is properly heated. Water can be pumped from the well directly into the basin. In order to avoid heating the milk room and to do away with smoke and ashes, the water heater should be placed immediately outside the milk room, and if elevated the water from it can be run into the washing vat. Figure 9 illustrates such an arrangement.

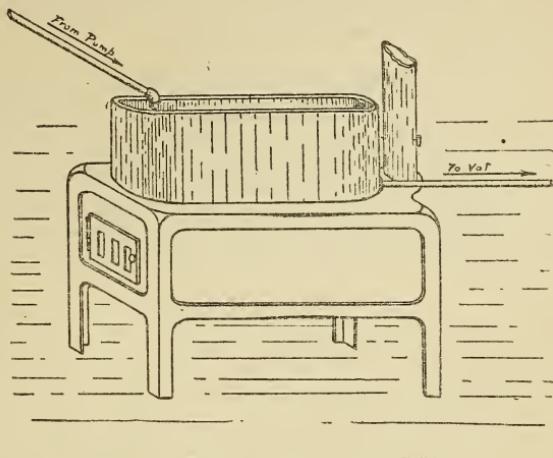


FIG. 9.—Water heater.

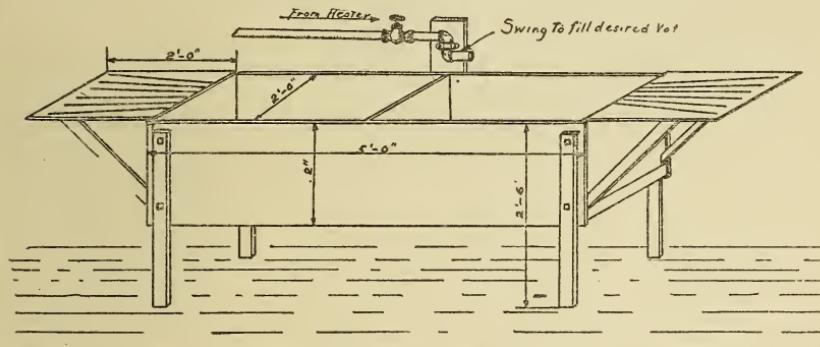


FIG. 10.—Vat for washing dairy utensils, etc.

EQUIPMENT FOR WASHING UTENSILS, ETC.

Some equipment is necessary in which to wash utensils used in handling milk. A vat similar to that shown in figure 10 is very convenient. One end of the vat can be used for washing and the other for rinsing and scalding.

Fiber brushes for washing milk utensils should replace the common dishrag, as they do better work and are more easily kept clean.

On every farm where as many as four or five cows are kept a cream separator is advisable, as it will reduce the labor required in handling the milk from cows more than any other one thing.

A refrigerator or ice box is desirable upon every farm where either a few or many cows are kept if it is practicable to secure ice for use in summer.

All the things mentioned above are practical, and their use will greatly lessen the labor required in handling cows and their product and at the same time enable the work to be pleasantly done, thus making the keeping of cows a congenial line of farm work. All the equipment, except the cans, brushes, heater, and separator, can be made on the farm at small cash outlay by anyone at all handy with tools.

